



Autumn 2021

SilverLining

Nevada Talking Book Services

Field Test of NLS Digital Book Reader

Eligibility

Persons unable to read or use print materials as a result of a temporary or permanent visual or physical limitation

Talking Books

100 N. Stewart Street
Carson City, NV 89701
775·684·3354
Fax 775·684·3355
1·800·922·9334
TDD 775·687·8338
nvtalkingbooks
@admin.nv.gov

Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.
Closed State
Holidays

Eight network libraries began a field test of a new digital book reader this spring.

They are evaluating how they work, their usability, and patron acceptance of the voice interface as well as satisfaction with other device-related issues, such as the need to charge them and the audio quality, according to Michael Katzmann, chief of the Program Delivery Division at the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS).

Data gathered from this field test will help NLS determine how to proceed with the device and the new voice user interface (VUI), which allows patrons to browse the NLS catalog, search for specific titles, and navigate within a book using voice commands. The same VUI technology will be used in an NLS smart speaker under development.

The book reader resembles a smart phone but will only search the catalog and read the books. This device would be loaned to patrons at no charge.

Unlike smart devices using the BARD Mobile app, the book reader streams audio, permitting playback to begin immediately rather than waiting for the whole book to download.

Libraries participating in the field test are Arizona, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. Each library is testing the book reader with 18 patrons.

From the April-June 2021 NLS publication *News*

NLS Foreign Language Offers Grow

Last summer, a published regulation allowed NLS to fully participate in the cross-border exchange of digital braille and audio books and musical scores through the Marrakesh Treaty. As of June 1, the NLS catalog included more than 400 works obtained via the treaty in French, Spanish, Polish, Arabic, German, Greek and English. NLS will soon begin publishing a guide to Marrakesh-obtained content called Foreign Language Quarterly.

To find all titles in a specific language, on the BARD website, under “Find Books,” within “Search the collection” , put “DB” in the search box; choose the language from the drop-down menu. This will list all audio titles available in that specific language.

From the April-June 2021 NLS publication *News*

Talking Book Services Staff Updates

Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records has a new administrator, Mike Strom. Mike began on May 17. He comes to us from the Library of Virginia where he has served as the Director of Government Records Services. Prior to that, he was the Wyoming State Archivist. He holds an MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin, with an emphasis in Archival Enterprise, as well as an MA in History from Central Washington University. He is originally from the Pacific Northwest.

In Talking Book Services, two reader advisors have left our program. Jeannette Trocinski has taken a job in the private sector. Eve Davis retired after more than 10 years with this program. Eve worked here when everyone was getting books on cassettes, a labor-intensive format requiring all tapes be rewound to make ready for the next patron. Jeannette and Eve helped us transition from traditional circulation of one book in one container to duplication on demand with several books on a cartridge with no need to reshelve returns.

Please welcome our newest employee, Tyler Ellis. Tyler has a bachelor’s degree with a major in history from Thomas Edison State University. He is currently a graduate student at the University of Nevada, Reno. Tyler has customer service experience from the Greater Nevada Credit Union. Tyler’s main duties will be circulation and helping patrons on the phone.

An Evening of Storytelling with Robert Hanley

Zavier Society for the Blind will host a virtual event on October 21 with actor/author Robert Hanley. Hanley is the author of one of their most popular books in braille and audio, *Do You See What I See? Discovering the Obvious*. The book is about finding a better, more meaningful life.

More information about the event and book are available at zaviersocietyfortheblind.org. Contact the Society at 800-637-9193 if you would like to borrow this title.

New Nevada Recording:***Calamity Jane***

DBC13379

by Bernard Schopen

Narrated by Kris Moe

Jane Harmon, a young L.A. filmmaker, comes to Blue Lake, Nevada to make a documentary about the real wild west. As she involves herself with the locals and a fiercely independent woman who manages the ranch owned by an aged and ailing star of movie and TV westerns, she manages to disrupt lives, prompt violence, and expose long concealed secrets. Contains some violence. 2013

Rerecorded:***Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims***

DBC13365

By Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins

Narrated by Melinda Artz

Considered the first known autobiography written by a Native American woman, this title offers both a memoir of one of the most well-known native American women and a history of the Paiute people during their first forty years of contact with European Americans. Some violence 1994

Now Available on BARD or Duplication on Demand

(These titles are available for you to request or download.)

The Infamous King of the Comstock: William Sharon and the Gilded Age in the West

DBC13361 By Michael J. Makley

The River and the Railroad: An Archaeological History of Reno

DBC13382 By Mary Ringhoff and Edward J. Stoner

Nevada's Twentieth-Century Mining Boom: Tonopah, Goldfield, Ely

DBC 13376 By Russell R. Elliott

The Making of Modern Nevada

DBC13381 By Hal Rothman

Bodie's Gold : Tall Tales & True History from a California Mining Town

DBC13358 By Marguerite Sprague

The Making of Modern Nevada

DBC13381 By Hal Rothman

Book Reviews by Philip Cooney

The Knowledge by Martha Grimes

DB93470

The audience for this story is detective mystery lovers and Martha Grimes fans.

This story sets our hero, Richard Jury, to solve a seemingly straight forward murder in front of a London casino. Of course, it is neither simple nor straight forward. What was the motive? Who were the responsible parties? That's what this story sets about to tell us.

A ten-year-old girl manages an adventure in Africa because of a network of child criminals put on the shooter's trail by another network of London taxi drivers. A second line brings a casino/art gallery owner to the attention of Jury and his cronies. Third, the murdered woman's mother gets crosswise with Jury due to her reaction to her daughter's death. Fourth, Jury sort of falls for the mother of the murdered man. Believe me, it all comes together eventually.

Richard Jury is a long-standing character of the author. This series reaches back to 1984 at least. I mention this only because the author refers to events not discussed in this story, yet seem to evoke understanding in long-time fans. In fact, the author devotes a few paragraphs to Jury's reminiscences later in the book. None of this detracts from the story if you don't worry about it.

I enjoyed the author weaving London cabbies and their network into the story as an important character, and their private bar as another. The girl and her gang are delightful and bring a different perspective to privacy. Do you know where your wallet is?

I liked many of the characters, even the casino owner. And in a surprise at the end, the modern world intrudes on London's best-kept secret. What is it? Read it and find out.

Nine Perfect Strangers by Lian Moriarty

DB92901

The audience for this story is students of the human condition and those who think too much and need a good laugh.

This story was described as psychological suspense, yet 50% of the way through the story, I am loving the author's keen observations of human behavior and laughing over her main character's comments about her spa companions.

The author seemed to pull out every stereotype and lean it to the edge of absurdity,

almost. She talks about other characters that you and I might find too harsh to say in polite company. And this works to make all the characters more relatable and human. Everyone knows someone like...

The author tells us stories about nine individuals mixed together at a health spa on a “wellness and cleansing” stay. She tells us about the leader of the process and her staff as well. For instance, Frances is a middle-aged romance writer with a snarky, cutting internal critic of her fellows. Masha is the middle-aged program leader who could be a Marine drill instructor and pulls no punches.

The next 15% of the story fleshes out the other characters from their own perspective, also how they view their fellows. The humor slips into the background and your empathy cranks up several notches. Then the author steps into the next 25% of the story and I began to understand where the suspense category came from.

Without going overboard on particulars or giving anything away, Masha has “issues”. There are some drug experiments performed without consent, even without the visitors knowledge. Can you understand where this is going?

I enjoyed the story. I was satisfied with the outcome. I appreciated the development of all the characters. While the plot might be a bit on the predictable side, how the author walks the reader through it is entertaining and reliable. As I alluded to above, the author knows people and is a keen observer of their behaviors and personalities. I put more of her books on my reading list as soon as I finished this one.

The SilverLining and the Nevada Talking Book Services is supported by the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records and with LSTA funds from the



INSTITUTE *of*
Museum and **Library**
SERVICES